

33. (Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions

which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving flight data from a digital flight data acquisition unit in an aircraft;

processing said flight data to prepare said data for transmission; and

transmitting said processed data via a cellular infrastructure when said aircraft has

landed, wherein the cellular infrastructure is accessed automatically upon landing of the aircraft.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants and the undersigned would like to express their appreciation to Examiners Zanelli and Gibson for the courtesies extended at the personal interview of July 6, 2000. Applicants also express their appreciation to the Examiner for the allowance of claims 26-28, 30-32, 34, and 35.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7, and 15-17 as being anticipated by, or in the alternative obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 5,550,738 to Bailey et al. The Examiner rejected claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 19 as being obvious over Bailey et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,714,948 to Farmakis et al. The Examiner rejected claim 20 as being obvious over Bailey and Farmakis in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,890,079 to Levine. The Examiner rejected claims 21-22 as being obvious over Bailey, Farmakis, and Levine and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,813 to Cleave. The Examiner rejected claims 2-3 as being obvious over Bailey in view of Cleave. The Examiner rejected claims 5-6 as being obvious over Bailey in view of U.S. Patent No.

5,901,142 to Averbuch. The Examiner rejected claim 9 as being obvious over Bailey and Farmakis in further view of Averbuch. The Examiner rejected claim 11 as being obvious over Bailey and Farmakis in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,663 to Harper, Jr. et al. The Examiner rejected claim 13 as being obvious over Bailey and Farmakis in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,939,652 to Steiner. The Examiner rejected claim 23 as being obvious over Bailey and Farmakis in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,124,915 to Krenzel. The Examiner rejected claim 24 as being obvious over Bailey, Farmakis, and Krenzel in further view of Steiner. The Examiner rejected claim 33 as being obvious over Bailey in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,852,825 to Winslow. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as follows.

The primary reference used to reject claims 1-24, 26-28, and 30-35 is Bailey. Applicants have herein amended independent claims 1, 8, 14, 15, 19, and 33. As discussed at the July 6 interview, the Examiner has agreed that, in view of the amendments, those claims are not anticipated by Bailey. *See Examiner Interview Summary Record dated July 6, 2000.*

However, the Examiner expressed that a "detailed reading of Farmakis" would be required prior to allowance of the rejected claims. Applicants submit that the rejected claims are not anticipated by nor obvious in view of Farmakis, either solely or in combination with other references. Farmakis is directed to a satellite-based system for tracking and control of aircraft. The system is used for, among other purposes, communications between aircraft on the ground and an air traffic control facility via satellite, cell telephone, or HF/VHF/UHF radio to track the surface movement of the

aircraft and to detect the position of the aircraft on the ground. *See* Farmakis, col. 16, lines 35-62. The system disclosed in Farmakis replaces or supplements verbal communications between an aircraft and an air traffic control facility with coded segments and/or data after the aircraft has landed. Such communications can include, for example, a request for closure of an aircraft's flight plan. Farmakis states that such a request can be made manually by the pilot or automatically in response to lowering the landing gear. *See* Farmakis, col. 20, lines 5-27.

Farmakis does not disclose, among other elements, "a cellular infrastructure in communication with said communications unit after the aircraft has landed, wherein the communication is initiated automatically upon landing of the aircraft" as claimed in claim 1, "a plurality of cell channels in communication with said serial card, said cell channels for transmitting data via a cellular infrastructure after the aircraft has landed, wherein the communication between the cell channels and the serial card is initiated automatically upon landing of the aircraft" as claimed in claims 13 and 14, "means for transmitting data from the data acquisition unit via a cellular infrastructure after the aircraft has landed, wherein transmission of the data is initiated automatically upon landing of the aircraft" as claimed in claim 15, "transmitting said flight data via a cellular communications infrastructure after the aircraft has landed, wherein the cellular communications infrastructure is accessed automatically upon landing of the aircraft" as claimed in claim 18, "transmitting said processed data via a cellular infrastructure after the aircraft has landed, wherein the cellular infrastructure is accessed automatically upon landing of the aircraft" as claimed in claim 19, or "transmitting said processed data via a cellular

infrastructure when said aircraft has landed, wherein the cellular infrastructure is accessed automatically upon landing of the aircraft” as claimed in claim 33. Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 8, 14, 15, 18, 19, and 33, and depended claims 2-7, 9-13, 16-17, and 20-24 which depend therefrom, respectively, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated herein, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly requested. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants’ attorney at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner’s concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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